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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 576

By Ford J

A RESOLUTION to authorize a special joint committee to study social anxiety disorder.

WHEREAS, social anxiety disorder (social phobia) is the most common anxiety disorder, affecting approximately 7.9% of all Americans annually; among those affected, social anxiety disorder exerts a lifetime prevalence of 13.3%; and

WHEREAS, people with social anxiety disorder are at a four-fold increased risk of developing depression, are three times more likely to develop panic and are two times more likely to suffer from alcoholism; and

WHEREAS, people with social anxiety disorder are twice as likely to attempt suicide than individuals without the disorder; and

WHEREAS, annual direct medical costs are 25% higher on average for people suffering from social anxiety disorder than those people with no mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, social anxiety disorder has been scientifically linked to reduced quality of life, lower educational attainment, and impairment of professional advancement and wage earning ability; and

WHEREAS, social anxiety disorder adversely affects the lives of thousands of Tennesseans, and thus it is most appropriate for this General Assembly to conduct a comprehensive study relative to this serious societal problem; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That if the Speakers so desire, they may create a special joint committee to study social anxiety disorder and the societal costs associated with such disorder and to recommend legislation or other appropriate solutions to address the many problems presented by social anxiety disorder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if appointed, the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Second General Assembly no later than February 1, 2001, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

